

A Glitched 1071

Chapter 1071 Aquarina's Spirits Evolutions

With the power of Yggdrasil's Spirit Armor and Gardener, I now have two powerful active skills I can use to further enhance some of my stats by a lot.

Even Gardener had some nice active bonuses! Although the majority was still related with gardening, the fact there were chances for plants to evolve was pretty cool.

But now that I was done with this, it was time to move on with more important matters, including the evolution of Aquarina's Spirits and also, the Rank up of my friends.

Now that we were in the privacy of my tent, which had yet to be taken down, it was finally time.

"Sylphy! We're ready any time." Aquarina said, bringing her two Spirits at her side.

"Then let's begin." I nodded. "Feed them the Stones, and I'll trigger the authorization."

"Gotcha!"

Aquarina gave the stones to her pets-I mean spirits, who happily devoured them in a few bites. It seemed these stones were delightful treats to spirits.

And then...!

"[Evolution Authorization]"

FLAAASH! FLAAASH!

Both Spirits began glowing at the same time as they finished eating their stones, which further boosted their growth and transformation speed.

Their sizes changed a lot, and their appearances slightly. Both grew big enough to be considered "young adult spirits" now.

Leviathan had now become longer and more majestic, as tall as Aquarina, but could be three times as long if he stretched his whole serpentine body.

The beauty and elegance of the Leviathan we once saw was already surfacing from their child, born from a Spiritual Soul Egg they left inside of Aquarina's Soul Scape.

With the same pristine and crystal-like scales as before, but now possessing a metallic, silver luster to them that made them glow with even more majesty and draconic beauty and elegance.

His sharp, azure eyes shone brightly, resembling jewels of utter beauty.

Meanwhile, Undine became at least a meter tall now, with longer blue hair, yet her appearance remained almost unchanged since she was recruited, she simply grew taller and looked slightly more mature.

I assume she ages like us, and as she grows up, she'll become adult-looking or something. Her beauty was already showing, and she was even more cute than before. One thing to notice is that she gained a more regal dress and a crown this time!

And these were their status...

<Status System>

[System Owner]: [Undine]

[Race]: [Water Spirit Princess: ★★★]

[Class]: [Sea Fairy: ★★★]

[Rank]: [C+]

[Level]: [0/50]

[HP]: [3.250/3.250]

[MP]: [12.000/12.000]

[Strength]: [1.800]

[Defense]: [1.800]

[Magic]: [5.000]

[Resistance]: [3.500]

[Agility]: [3.000]

[Luck]: [2.200]

[Charm]: [4.500]

[Skills]: [Water Manipulation: Lv7] [Sharp Spirit Trident: Lv6] [Turbulent River Currents: Lv6] [Healing Spring Water: Lv5] [Deadly Whirlpool: Lv3] [Song of Fear: Lv3] [Spirit Ocean Domain: Lv1] [Water Spirit Princess' Guards: Lv1]

Undine gained two new Sills, a powerful Domain and the ability to summon a pair of mighty guards made of water, resembling giant golems!

<Status System>

[System Owner]: [Leviathan]

[Race]: [True Dragon Spirit: ★★★]

[Class]: [Juvenile Silver Frost Scale Dragon: ★★★]

[Rank]: [C+]

[Level]: [0/50]

[HP]: [4.250/4.250]

[MP]: [8.000/8.000]

[Strength]: [4.700]

[Defense]: [4.200]

[Magic]: [3.000]

[Resistance]: [2.300]

[Agility]: [2.300]

[Luck]: [2.300]

[Charm]: [2.200]

[Skills]: [Ice Manipulation: Lv7] [Ice Crystal Scales: Lv6] [Freezing Breath: Lv6] [Icicle Spears: Lv5] [Frost Claws: Lv3] [Snowstorm: Lv3] [Illusory Icy Mist Domain: Lv1] [Draconic Eyes of Ice: Lv1]

Meanwhile, Leviathan has gained the power to unleash a domain of mist that seems to confuse and slowly freeze foes, while his eyes can temporarily paralyze foes through freezing their bodies.

Overall, both Spirits have become much, much stronger!

In fact, now that I compare them, their stats are almost double the ones my own Spirits had initially when they reached this stage.

Is this thanks to Aquarina's Evolution Stats and their late bloomer growth?!

Its honestly impressive...

"Wow, you two got so big now!" Aquarina was really happy. "And you're so strong too, what with these Skills?! You've outdone yourselves! Well done!"

"It is all thanks to Master's Stone and Sylphy's special magic that helped us grow this fast..." Said Undine.
"I thought it would take me a few decades to get to this stage, but it happened so quickly."

"Rooooaar!" Leviathan couldn't speak yet, wagging his long tail and licking Aquarina's face with his big dragon tongue. "Raarr! Raarr!"

"Wow, that's amazing..." Zack said. "I wonder if you could give the System to my Spirit and Mist's too?"

"Hey, you shouldn't be asking Sylphy those things, Zack! Don't get so cocky, the System Seeds cost millions of EXP out of Sylphy, and that is a precious resource!" Mist reprimanded her boyfriend. "She already gave us amazing equipment! Don't be greedy."

"R-Right, hahaha! I was just joking..." Zack laughed a bit.

"Honestly I wouldn't mind giving some more System Seeds." I said. "One for all of your Spirits wouldn't be so hard. The more System Seeds are distributed the stronger I grow too."

"Wait, really?" Aquarina asked.

"Yes, I can gain a part of the EXP all of you earn all the time, also I seem to be able to draw a part of your Magical Power towards me." I said. "With it, we can more or less combine our spells and magical affinities even more easily. Ah, there's also another ability that I had yet to try, I seem to be able to Inherit an Ability or Skill from you as well, through the Heroic Talent Seed thingy."

"Woah..." Zack said. "You can grow so strong thanks to us, hahaha! I guess our spirits deserve the system seeds then!"

"But don't get too cocky though!" I said. "The equipment was a gift because I love you guys, and I only gave system seeds to Aquarina's spirits because she's my girlfriend, all of you'll need to pay me if you want your spirits to get them... Sorry but I can't just hand out everything."

"Pay?! Ugh, okay, I guess it makes sense and it's fair." Zack nodded. "How much?"

"I haven't thought about it yet..." I said. "But you'll be paying something that'll give your spirits the ability to develop endlessly, so you better offer some good money."

Everyone was slightly intimidated by my greedy eyes, but accepted it was a fair thing to ask for, seeing how I've been handling amazing things to all of them for free all this time.

Chapter 1072 Lara And Luck Rank Up

Although I knew it was fair to ask for payment, I couldn't help but feel slightly guilty deep down. I love them and they're like my family, but they're going to grow too spoiled and cocky if I handle them everything on a silver platter.

"Alright, so how many Spirits are there?" I wondered. "Take them out so I can count how many System Seeds I should prepare..."

They quickly nodded, showing me their Spirits. Zack had his cloud-shaped spirit with a single eye in the middle, Mist had her rabbit-like fairy spirit of light, Celeste had her darkness bat spirit, Celica had no spirits but had her golems, I might choose her main one, Mister Teddy.

Lastly, about Luck and Lara, they didn't have any normal low-level spirit, and I am pretty sure that it will be impossible to give a System to his Divine Beast Spirits because they're... Well, Divine.

Lara has countless Spirits of the Land, which are essentially different, and I can't just choose one of them either. So the next best thing is a Familiar, whenever they get one.

"So I'll prepare four then." I nodded. "Luck, Lara, will you try to get a Familiar in the future?"

"I suppose we can try, yeah." Luck nodded. "I was planning on making the Gray Fenrir my Familiar, but I don't know if that guy can get a System Seed, seeing how strong he was."

"I'll think about it! Are you sure you can't, like, choose one of these buddies?" Lara asked.

"No, that would be too much for a little buddy like them." I said. "You'll need a proper spirit or a slightly weak Familiar."

"Aww..." Lara sighed. "Sorry buddies, can't give you a system."

"Buboh!"

"Guboh."

"Gehe!"

They didn't seem to care at all, making cute noises and leaping from one place to another without many concerns at all. In fact, they looked like they have not cared about much at all except on Lara.

I can tell why they're Spirits of the World itself, they're so carefree nobody can really tame them, only the Saintess of Spirits is a unique existence special enough to gain their favor.

"Well, now that we discussed that, let's proceed with the Rank Ups." I nodded. "Make a line, Lara first, then Mist, Zack, Celica, and Celeste."

"Hey, why am I last?!" Celeste complained.

"Maybe if you try to be nicer and cuter I could give you some privileges!" I giggled, teasing her.

"...Fine, I'll be cuter just to you, Sylphy. I'll talk you with a baby voice and give you kisses and cook for you~" Celeste teased me.

"...What?" Aquarina was glaring at her with a deadly gaze.

"Eep! I was joking!" Celeste sighed. "Hahhh... These kids can't take some jokes. Being already a young adult amidst a group of children is so tiring~"

"Anyways!" I said, ignoring the attention seeking half-demon girl. "Let's do this."

I quickly allowed everyone to Rank Up one after another, their bodies overflowing with powerful Auras of Mana and Strength, while their Stats skyrocketed and their Skill Levels increased, all while gaining some new Skills too.

<System>

[System Owner]: [Lara Goathorn]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 6: Rank 1: Elemental Spirit Crown Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 3: Rank 3: Spirit Beast Princess Physique]

[Level]: [0/50]

[Class]: [Advanced Saintess: ★★]

[Subclass]: [Spirit Talker: ★★]

[HP]: [3.800/3.800]

[MP]: [125.000/125.000]

[Strength]: [2.800]

[Defense]: [2.800]

[Magic]: [23.000]

[Resistance]: [16.000]

[Agility]: [5.500]

[Luck]: [13.000]

[Charm]: [15.000]

[Skills]: [Anima: White Sheep Tribe: Lv4] [Divine Protection: Lv4] [Keen Beast Senses: Lv6] [Forager: Lv5]
[Spiritual Senses: Lv8] [Heavenly Divine Spirit Princess: Lv7] [Divine Spirit Beast Transformation: Lv3]
[Divine Saintly Spirit Summoning Magic: Lv8] [Spirit's Call: L9] [Spirit Fusion: Lv6] [Spirit Creation: Lv5]
[Spirit Scepter Arts: Lv3] [Spirit Infusion: Lv3] [Spirit Weaponization: Lv2] [Spirit Domain: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Rhea, The Chief Goddess of Nature, Life, and Maternity] [Phoebe, the Chief Goddess of Intellect and Prophecy] [Freyr, the Great Divine Spirit King] [Freyja, the Great Divine Spirit Queen]

Lara's major Stats are Magic and MP, and they kept increasing to an insane rate, surpassing even my own Magic Stat with all the bonuses I have, which is pretty crazy without even taking into consideration the equipment bonus she gets from what I made for her.

Her abilities are progressing smoothly, and her affinity with spirits has never been this strong. She gained a new Domain Skill, which I believe might help her carry along a large quantity of Spirits with herself anywhere, even on places where they're usually not that common.

There's a skill she has had for a while that I've been wondering what it does, her [Divine Spirit Beast Transformation: Lv3], I'll ask her about that later.

<System>

[System Owner]: [Zack]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 4: Rank 7: Lightning Tempest Lord Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 5: Rank 9: Thunderstorm King Physique]

[Level]: [0/50]

[Class]: [Thunder Axe Barbarian: ★★]

[Subclass]: [Windstorm Magician: ★★]

[HP]: [15.000/15.000]

[MP]: [30.500/30.500]

[Strength]: [17.250]

[Defense]: [13.500]

[Magic]: [10.350]

[Resistance]: [7.000]

[Agility]: [9.500]

[Luck]: [5.000]

[Charm]: [5.250]

[Skills]: [Amazonian Warrior Bloodline: Lv5] [Forager: Lv7] [Hunter: Lv7] [Butcher: Lv7] [High-Speed Climbing: Lv8] [Beast Aura: Tempest Horned Bear: Lv4] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv4] [Divine Battle Axe Arts: Lv6] [Tempest Magic: Lv5] [Thunderstorm Aura: Lv3] [Berserk Mode: Lv2] [Tempestuous Rampage: Lv2] [Steady Fighter: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze]

Moving on with Zack, Arafunn's new disciple, he's looking as strong as ever. Even without a divine blessing, he's super physically strong, with great agility, defense, and strength above all things. Summing up his series of skills is Steady Fighter, I skill I already had in my possession. Looks like it'll be really useful for a frontline fighter like him.

This skill enhances resilience a lot, and it has both passive and active effects as well, which'll help him become tougher in any situation, and handle even the strongest of foes, being able to take on many blows before even be pushed back, and coupled with the armor I made for him, well, he'll be even more amazing.

Chapter 1073 Everyone's Status

"I feel so much more connected with my beloved Spirits!" Lara said happily. "Look!" She quickly activated her Domain Skill, as a circle of rainbow light materialized around her.

Spirits of all kinds flocked around her, even our own spirits felt attracted, if we didn't stop them they would have jumped ship in front of our faces! I can't believe she has such power she might even influence spirits with contracts.

That's dangerous but also powerful, if she grows even more in the future, we could use her help to take away the spirits of foes and weaken them even more, which is pretty amazing.

"It's like some sort of spirit inventory?" Wondered Aquarina. "Do you keep them around?"

"Yeah!" Lara nodded. "I need to constantly supply some Mana, but at this point I regenerate it very quickly, so I can take on the burden easily! I think I can bring along like... a few hundred of them? Or more perhaps."

"That's really useful, so you don't need to call them first when you need their help." Luck nodded.

"Yeah, I guess it's better than the lame skill I got. It just makes me tougher?" Zack was dissatisfied.

"Hey! Steady Fighter's a good skill! I have it myself and it has helped a lot." I nodded. "Just keep leveling it. You haven't leveled up the newer ones that much... Are you slacking?"

"They just take a while to level up. I can't just practice Berserk Mode, it gives me headaches..." Zack sighed.

"Well, fine..." I shrugged.

After that discussion, I took a look at the other Statuses.

<System>

[System Owner]: [Celeste]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 6: Rank 1: Umbral Shadow Witch Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 5: Rank 1: Abyssal Bat Queen Physique]

[Level]: [0/50]

[Class]: [Abyssal Spear Fighter: ★★]

[Subclass]: [Umbral Witch: ★★]

[HP]: [8.450/8.450]

[MP]: [76.600/76.600]

[Strength]: [13.650]

[Defense]: [5.660]

[Magic]: [15.594]

[Resistance]: [11.150]

[Agility]: [10.800]

[Luck]: [4.800]

[Charm]: [8.500]

[Skills]: [Abyssal Tail Demon Bloodline: Lv7] [Paralyzing Poison Tail: Lv7] [Explorer: Lv7] [Demonic Eyes of Darkness: Lv7] [Dark Arts: Lv6] [Beast Aura: Abyssal Bat Queen Aura: Lv4] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv4] [Demonic Shadow Abyss Spear Arts: Lv5] [Ancient Abyss Magic: Lv5] [Cursed Spear Strike: Lv2] [Cursed Dark Chains: Lv2] [Reaper: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze]

Celeste gained the Reaper Skill, which I also owned already myself, it's a great skill that deals bonus damage to Monsters. She's not a Farmer though, so its weird she got it. I guess it is not really a Farmer-exclusive skill, and she does fit the role of a reaper herself, seeing how malicious and ruthless she's on battle.

Her other abilities all grew exponentially, and she has a great combination of physical and magical prowess going on with her, she has a great balance I would say. And when combined with everything else, she's rather strong.

<System>

[System Owner]: [Mist]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 5: Rank 4: Holy Healing Light Saintess Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 4: Rank 2: Talented Magic Archer Physique]

[Level]: [0/50]

[Class]: [Holy Light Priestess: ★★]

[Subclass]: [Magic Light Archer: ★★]

[HP]: [7.250/7.250]

[MP]: [60.200/60.200]

[Strength]: [9.550]

[Defense]: [6.360]

[Magic]: [14.500]

[Resistance]: [9.675]

[Agility]: [9.600]

[Luck]: [15.300]

[Charm]: [13.000]

[Skills]: [Jaw Demon Bloodline: Lv2] [Sharp Biting Jaws: Lv3] [Inspiring Words: Lv8] [Healing Innocence: Lv7] [First Aids: Lv6] [Beast Aura: Heavenly Swan Aura: Lv4] [Unyielding Love (Zack): Lv8] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv4] [Celestial Light Bow Arts: Lv6] [Revitalizing Magic: Lv7] [Restorative Light Circle: Lv2] [Magic Arrow Creation: Lv2] [Light Spirit Arrow Aura: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze]

Mist continues down the path of a magic archer, with higher magic, agility, and attack power than before. Her MP has increased quite a lot more now, and her newest Skill allows her to create spiritual arrows made of light out of her own Aura.

These arrows are different than just the magic arrows of usual, and carry strong light elemental power, pretty effective against evil, dark, or undead type foes. She went from barely using arrows trying to offer some support with some of her healing magic to become a reliable backline fighter that we can always rely on.

<System>

[System Owner]: [Celica]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 6: Rank 1: Spectral Puppeteer Witch Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 4: Rank 1: Phantasmal Demon Princess Physique]

[Level]: [0/50]

[Class]: [Phantom Golem Puppeteer: ★★]

[Subclass]: [Spectral Witch: ★★]

[HP]: [6.150/6.150]

[MP]: [99.600/99.600]

[Strength]: [5.250]

[Defense]: [5.260]

[Magic]: [18.590]

[Resistance]: [14.700]

[Agility]: [6.800]

[Luck]: [11.500]

[Charm]: [11.500]

[Skills]: [Puppeteer Demon Bloodline: Lv8] [Phantom Strings: Lv7] [Golem Creation: Lv7] [Minion Guard: Lv7] [Puppet Obsession: Lv6] [Beast Aura: Phantasmal Puppeteer Aura: Lv6] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv4] [Demonic Puppet Creation: Lv6] [Phantasmal Magic: Lv5] [Demonic Puppet Fusion: Lv2] [Phantom Soul Realm: Lv2] [Demonic Puppet Evolution: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and

And lastly Celica. Her new skill is Demonic Puppet Evolution, quite self-explanatory, I think. Her MP and Magic Stats are also higher than most, and she seems very specialized on that.

Also, her Physique changed, and it seems to have gained some sort of phantasmal properties! And about her skills, they look the same as before, she's just getting better at using all of them now.

Remembering Celica back then, she was such a clueless and defenseless little girl, she has changed a lot since she learned how to use magic and discovered her unique magic capable of creating golems out of puppets.

Once she got her heroic talent seed, she discovered there was more to this talent, which was phantasmal magic. A special attribute of magic that deals with the "phantom" side of the death attribute, she's becoming quite a strong magician now, and her golems are very formidable.

"A skill that deals bonus damage to monsters?" Celeste seemed unsatisfied with her new Skill. "Kind of lame..."

"I love my new skill; I can make special light arrows!" Mist said, dozens of arrows made of spiritual light floated around her.

"Hmm, I can evolve my puppets now?" Celica wondered. "That's great!"

Only Celeste ended being dissatisfied, the other two seemed really happy with what they got.

"Sylphy! Everyone! Come on, we're moving!"

"Coming!"

Chapter 1074 The East Grasslands

After helping everyone Rank Up, it was time to move on. We swiftly packed the tent and everything else inside of Glutton and we set off into the East Grasslands. The beautiful scenery rising across the horizon as we moved to the other side of the Sunstone Plateau, leaving behind this place that revealed us so much about the past, yet only left us with even more questions than before.

It was unexpected too, but it seems this place has given me my first chance at cultivating a Divine Aspect, this Ring I now have inside my soul was a skill I inherited from Apollo. I'll make sure to use it well and avenge them and all the souls that were tortured in the past. The gods that blessed me will not be forgiven.

Nonetheless, this wasn't time to think about these dark thoughts. I should leave them behind and enjoy my life. It will be a long road towards the level of strength I need, and I am barely managing with just surviving such a chaotic world... Yeah, let's just concentrate on the present for now.

"Look, Sylphy! The grasslands!" Lara pointed into the distance.

These grasslands weren't just a bunch of grass making a green sea. No, they were much more than that, they were gigantic grass, each plant as tall as a tree, making for an enormous forest of grass.

It was very easy to get lost in here due to how close each piece was with one another. We were barely able to find any path across such a huge jungle... It's not at all like the grasslands I know!

"So these are the East Grasslands..." My mother laughed a bit. "I should have expected something out of our imagination, this is Cloudia after all! Hahaha! It is indeed a place where the gods did whatever they wanted... I wonder why's there such oversized grass here though."

"Maybe another experiment gone wrong?" My father wondered. "Anyways, to not get lost, we should walk closely together, everyone. Grasp on these threads I'll create."

My father generated threads out of his hands, made out of his very Soul, they were slightly warm, and could pass through all physical objects. They slowly touched our souls, connecting to them.

"These are Soul Threads, you can use them to connect with someone and know how their health is, and where they are." My father said. "They'll fade away after a few days though, so don't worry. It's just until we find what we can do here for."

"I see!" I nodded. "Alright then, Pyuku, can you sense something?"

"Hmm..." Pyuku unequipped the item I made for him so he could enhance his senses again. He had the ability to detect if there was another of his kin somewhere, or even detect where the things they made could be located. Similar to a "scent" they must have left behind. "Ah! Over there!" He pointed to the East.

"Are you sure?" Shade asked. "We could ask some of our spirits to locate other slimes using your scent as reference."

"No, it's fine! I am 100% sure there's something over there, please believe me!" Pyuku implored us. "This time it's different too! L-Like, not just ruins! Maybe very big ruins but still, perhaps... there's a chance?!" He seemed almost euphoric.

"Okay, alright, calm down." I laughed. "Let's go there then!"

Without any hesitation, we braved the enormous and beautiful grasslands. Moving across them was very hellish, we had to use our weapons to form a path, hacking and cutting through the thick grass with each slash.

The sun scorched strongly above us, and the grasslands were merciless on how big they were. Each piece of grass was really tough, but this was also a nice training! I had missed my swordsmanship training this morning, so this came really nicely.

"Come on, we can do this, don't get tired too quickly, haha!" My father laughed, barely working so we could do most of the work ourselves.

I could feel my muscles growing slightly stronger as I concentrated on enhancing my Physique's growth more than my Magic Circle Growth. With the help of the Divine Sunlight Halo and the ring created inside my soul, I was also able to hasten the growth of my soul and magic circle, all together at once.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

For three hours, we kept walking and walking, occasionally confronting monsters that would appear sometimes, from the air and the underground, but they were no threat, the strongest at Tier 6. Ultimately, we decided to take a break.

"Pyuku, how far are we?" Mist wondered, while gasping for air. "Oof, this is a bit too much... Ugh."

"I-I think we're halfway through?" Wondered Pyuku. "I can definitely sense them closer now!"

"Well, that's at the very least somewhat reassuring." I nodded. "Mom, should we have lunch?"

"Sure, we were feeling a bit bored and tired, so yeah. Let's eat something. The heat of the sun is truly punishing, huh? Even Tier 10s like us feel a bit overwhelmed." She giggled. "Well, as long as we don't activate our abilities and magic, that's it."

"I know you could have easily erected a barrier to protect us from sunlight, and Arafunn could have generated cold winds to help us feel fresher." I said. "But this is also some sort of training, so its better if we overcome this ourselves."

"Well said." My dad agreed. "Now, let's set a small camp..."

We set up a small camp, making sure to protect ourselves from the heat of the sun this time around, while we cooked up something tasty. I decided to help mum on cooking a big stew using the monsters we recently hunted.

There were green-scaled giant monitor lizards named Grassland Lizards, Tier 4, big fat moles with rocky scales armoring their bodies, Grasslands Moles, Tier 3, and then there were all matter of giant insects, from enormous Dragonflies to Ladybugs and Ants, which were from Tier 3 to Tier 6.

We were considering if we should eat the bugs or not... But we decided to pass for now and just try the lizard and mole meat first. They cooked really quickly and after seasoning some big steaks...

"Oh! This is good!"

Their meat was unexpectedly juicy.

Chapter 1075 Zack's Dilemma

1075 Zack's Dilemma

The lizard meat was lean and unexpectedly soft once cooked, having a nice flavor that was like a combination between chicken and beef. Once seasoned, it made for a nice and tasty meal full of rich Mana and even some "Ki" or life force as they call it, which enriched our cultivation as we ate it. All thanks to mom's Cooking Magic that could boost our cultivation as we ate strong monsters' meat.

The mole's meat was like a very fatty beef, it was incredibly soft once cooked on the stew, we made mostly meatballs out of these, but just big chunks of it were also nice enough. It had some slight earthy flavor to it, but it was good, nonetheless.

I decided to combine both meats and make burgers out of them, which were amazing, combining their flavors, fattiness, and softness together. And when we finally finished pigging out, we kept on moving.

Hacking through the grass while cultivating can get really boring even with all the focus and intensity we have to put into this training method, so eventually we just started chatting about anything.

"So Zack, have you made a new song yet?" I teased him.

"Ugh, I'm thinking about it... Hahh..." He continued hacking through the grass. "I can't really think about anything yet. It's so confusing and cringy. I've never sang before!"

"Didn't people in the Amazon Tribe ever sang?" Asked Celeste.

"How come you don't know any song?"

"We do sing a lot." Aquarina nodded. "But our songs are

intense, and we sing them with ancient language we don't understand well nowadays. We use a lot of music too, the sound of instruments such as flutes and drums! And we dance too! But Zack's never been a guy into those things. He just always watched in the sidelines. Kind of boring guy."

"Hey! I am not a dancer or a singer myself. I just like hunting critters and exploring." Zack sighed, suddenly noticing a huge dragonfly of over three meters approaching from above.

<nulli>BBZZZTT!

"Ah, screw off!"

He swung both of his axes against it, thunder and winds surging and quickly cutting the large insect into pieces, followed by a small explosion.

<nulli>BOOOM!

After the creature died, we ignored its corpse and continued moving, a Tier 3 monster like that wasn't really worth much, not even enough EXP either.

"Phew, this is getting a bit tiring... W-Why am I doing this too?

I'm a magician..." Celica was sighing, as she was holding two scythes made of her phantasmal magic aura and cutting grass with us.

"Your Strength Stat's pretty high, Celica, you should be exercising more so your body grows accustomed to it." I told her. "It's never good to use specialize on a single thing! Even my mom's pretty strong physically."

"Y-Yeah, Celica!" Zephy said. "But I can ease the burden for you, leave it to me! Hya! Hya! HYA!" My little brother was doing his best to surprise Celica, using his dual sword technique to cut through the giant grass.

<nulli>SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"Wow, Zephy, you're the best!" Celica clapped from behind,

feeling relieved.

As we admired the scene, I suddenly got an idea... but would

Zack go along with it though? That's the real question right

now.

"Hey Zack, how about you just sing for the girl you like?" I

gave him a teasing smile. "Isn't Mist someone that stir your

feelings? I heard from uncle that's that what you need to do

when making a song. If you make a lame one it won't really get

to his heart."

"T-That's... Are you serious?!" Zack suddenly blushed, he got

so red I thought he was about to burst. He quickly glanced at

Mist in the distance, she was currently just chatting with Lara,

so she didn't get to hear that.

"Yeah, that's a good idea!" Aquarina nodded. "I would easily

make a song for Sylphy if I were to get into it."

"Oh really?" I wondered with puppy eyes. "Make me one!"

"W-What? No way, that's too embarrassing!" She said, seconds

after having said she could easily do it. "Hahah..."

"I guess you're not as good of a singer, huh?" Zack sighed.

"Now imagine me, even worse! I love Mist but... Can I even

make a song about her? What would it even be about?"

"About how much you like her and love her?" I asked him.

"Perhaps what you find cute about her! What things about her

you like. Maybe point some of the things that also you don't

like, but coat them in sugar by saying you can bear with them

because you love her."

"Wait, that's a good idea..." Zack was so clueless even my little

suggestion was a really good idea inside of his head. "Maybe...

Ugh, but it's so embarrassing! W-Well, as long as I only have to

show it to him and not everyone else- I-I can think of some

lyrics. But how do I begin?"

"Hmm, to make it less cringy, maybe make it like... About

telling a story?" Aquarina asked.

"Yeah like some fairy tale." Celeste laughed. "Like... Err, like

you start it by "I was just a poor little guy that nobody ever

loved, until Mist appeared in my life and she pitied me and

finally loved my sorry ass" and stuff like that."

"I'm not listening to your suggestions..." Zack groaned at

Celeste, ignoring her.

"Hahaha, I mean, she's not wrong, you should start it like a

tale." I nodded. "Maybe something like a metaphor of your life,

of the journey you've had until you meet her, no?"

"Hmm..." Zack sighed. "All of this about opening myself and

shit is so annoying... But okay, I need to grow stronger, if

that's what it will take for Arafunn to take me as his disciple,

then there's no other way around it."

"Good, that's the spirit!" Aquarina laughed, patting his

shoulders very strongly. "Looking forward to your corny song!

Hahaha!"

"Shut up!" Zack sighed, crossing his arms and gnashing his

teeth, he was really having a hard time.

"Oh? T-There's something over there..." Suddenly, Pyuku

interrupted our banter, as he pointed at the distance.

We could barely discern it, but there was some sort of ruins

over there.

Chapter 1076 The Mysterious Ruins

Amidst the ocean of incredibly tall and thick grass, we finally found something, a small vestige of an ancient civilization, these ruins were not metallic like the previous ones. They were made of a very tough stone similar to the one most dungeon is made of, and similar to the dungeon Arachne once controlled.

It seemed this area wasn't just some old spaceship they left here, but a whole palace of stone they once built... Or told their slaves to build for them. The ruins were in a great state compared to the Sunstone Plateau one, except that they were overrun by all sorts of plants, the grass wasn't touching it though.

However, we noticed a large quantity of vines growing through it, slowly tearing down the hard stone through the ages, there were many trees popping out of the ruins, there were no shiny crystals or spirit crystals though, which was usually the norm in places with high concentrations of spirit energy or mana, weirdly enough.

"Here we are..." My mother looked around. "Looks like some fewer ancient ruins if they're made of stone and not metal. Pyuku, is this where you sense your kin?"

"Kind of..." Pyuku was a bit worried. "But I feel their presences very weakened. Maybe it was just their essence left over the ruins? Perhaps they passed through here and aren't exactly here."

"Hmm, well, we'll only find out once we enter." Nepheline said. "Right?"

"Yeah, don't lose hope yet." Ninhursag patted Pyuku's head. "Let's enter."

We followed Pyuku's guidance as we made our way across the grass, finally reaching the entrance of the ruins. The first thing we noticed were countless roots extending all the way inside.

They were not the roots of a tree, but countless of very thin roots, which came from the underground. It was a bit weird they weren't tree roots, and that no monster or animal had tried eating them.

Perhaps they had but they kept growing back or something? I could sense a lot of Mana flowing across them, interestingly enough. Once we entered, there was a long, empty corridor full of vegetation, and countless vines.

Further inside, there were three paths, one moving forwards, and the other two to the left and right, we chose the path to the left because that's where Pyuku felt the presences.

The interior was full of mysterious and beautiful types of plants we've never seen before, of many colors and shapes I picked a few while leaving most behind due to them not being medicinal at all.

There were mostly poisonous plants though, which made me wonder if there was someone here that once tried to make a poisonous plant plantation or something...

"Based in how we've not met any slimes yet, I can assume there's nobody here. If there was a settlement, we would have already meet guards or something." Pyuku sighed in disappointment. "But I wonder, if I can sense their presence here, maybe they left something behind?"

He still had some hope to find more clues, so we moved into the end of the corridor. On the way, we meet a variety of plant monsters, all weaklings at Tier 6 at most. From Creeping Vines, Tier 5, to Cannibal Flowers, Tier 6, and there were many tiny ones with legs that released poisonous pollen named Poisonous Gnome Flowers, ranging from Tier 2 to 4.

The poison wasn't a problem for us, with mother's magic, she simply conjured a [Divine Ailment Ward] that protected us from any Poison below Tier 9 for 24 hours, we simply stomped the annoying little guys on our way to the end of the corridor.

There was a large stone door, covered on grass and vines, it seemed closed shut, but we noticed countless of the same roots at the beginning of the ruins connecting to this place, all going below the gates.

"The gates seem to be only closed normally, let's push them." My father said, gently pushing them to not destroy them with his overwhelming physical strength.

Creeaaak...!

The gates slowly opened wide, to reveal a large, dark room. As we walked inside, we found these same thin roots growing everywhere, spread over the ceiling, walls, and the floor, of course.

However, once we entered, we all sensed an eerie sensation, there was something alive here, or many living beings, not plants, but the type of living being that moves, talks, and attacks.

"This place..." My father seemed in high alert. "I think there are a lot of monsters, be careful-"

"Ahhh!"

However, Pyuku wasn't careful, running forwards as he suddenly found something on the ceiling, there were large wooden roots that ended on small, balloon-like growths.

They were strange fruits, and inside, we could all notice small, slimy things, like some sort of natural juice oozing out of the fruit's transparent interior.

But it all changed when we realized the interior of these oozes had small crystals, and if I looked good enough, tiny, black dot-shaped eyes.

"T-They're here! More like me! My people! B-But why are you inside fruits?!"

Pyuku was reckless, before we could go catch him, a large and thick root, made of countless smaller ones wrapped around together, swung against him amidst the shadows!

BAAAAMM!!

"Uwah!"

Pyuku ended having half of his body cleaved down, splattering over the floor, only for it to quickly fly back to his body and fuse once more. He was very resilient due to his slime physique.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Three more gigantic roots appeared around him, while none attacked us. The tree monster or whatever it was, was specifically aiming at Pyuku! If it had all these slimes as prisoners, does it use them as some sort of preferred food?

"What the...?! Why is it only attacking me?!"

Pyuku started running away, he didn't use fire magic spells he had learned from eating monsters most likely due to the fear of setting ablaze his companions trapped in the fruits, so he used the other element he was good at, which wasn't born out of abilities or spells he "stole" from monsters he had eaten.

"[Aqua Bullets]!"

Chapter 1077 The Aberrant Tree Monster

"[Aqua Bullet]!"

His body quickly fired a barrage of bullets made of water secretion he generated, piercing through the wooden roots and dealing great damage.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

However, the roots kept appearing one after another, the wounded ones sat down and began to quickly regenerate their wounds too, it was a resilient foe.

"Pyuku, duck!"

Aquarina and I called for him, as he quickly ducked, evading three roots that aimed at his head, chest, and stomach, probably trying to splatter him into many pieces before restraining him or something.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Using my sword and with Aquarina using her daggers, we cut through the roots and reduced them into tiny pieces of wood, which fell into pile over the ground.

"Are you alright?" I asked Pyuku, slightly concerned.

"Yeah I'm fine!" He nodded, looking back at the enormous figure looming across the shadows.

"Light!"

My mother conjured a basic spell, illuminating the entire room to reveal a large tree-like monster, its branches spreading upwards, with hanging fruits in the hundreds, each one had a small slime inside! They seemed not really healthy, as if that monster was keeping them alive to slowly drain their nutrients.

"GRUOOHH!"

A large jaw cracked open from within the tree trunk, opening to reveal countless green vines coming from inside, spreading around the entire area.

Ding!

[You've entered into the lair of the [Mutated Yggdrasil Clone (Tier 9)]!]

[The Yggdrasil's Clone roars with malice! Its entire domain spreads across the entire Grasslands, draining power from them all to grow stronger!]

[All of its Stats have further increased by +300%!]

[Mana and Health Regeneration Speed have increased by +500%!]

[Duration: Indefinite.]

[A [Special Quest] has been generated: [Defeat The Mutated Yggdrasil Clone Tree and Save the Slimes!]

[You have found out the Slimes were indeed here but have been captured by some sort of strange Yggdrasil Clone Monster! Perhaps some sort of failed experiment, or something else entirely.]

[It is now your responsibility and that of your friends and family to slay it and rescue the slimes before they're fully absorbed by the tree voracious appetite.]

[Hurry! There isn't much time left!]

[Completion Rewards: [EXP] [???] [???]

[Time Limit: 3 Hours]

"A giant Yggdrasil Clone thing?!" I couldn't help but ask in surprise. There was also a new Quest, but I ignored that for now. "Mom, dad!"

"Yeah, defeating it won't be that hard, but the thing is, we have to be careful!" My mother said. "I feel the life forces of those slimes too weak. I think that thing is both slowly draining them, and also keeping them alive. If we kill it suddenly, those slimes might lose their source of life and die as well!"

"What?!" Pyuku panicked. "T-Then what do we do?!"

"We have to find a way to restrain it without killing it for now." My father said, unsheathing his sword.
"Best way would be to block its mana pathways that lead to the roots and vines its moving."

"Mana Disruption then?" I wondered, as I gathered gray lightning in my hands. "Then maybe leave it to me, I think I can do something about it!"

"Right, you do have the ability to disrupt mana." My father nodded, swinging his sword leisurely as he cut through dozens of vines at the same time. "Alright! You can do it then!"

"Allan! Aren't you being a bit too reckless leaving it all up to her again?" My mother reprimanded him.

"Well, if she wants to do it then she can, right?" My father laughed. "Sylphy's not little anymore! She has helped us beat even an Evil God! Come on."

"Yeah mom, leave this to me!" I nodded.

"Fine... We'll open the way for you then! Go with Pyuku too." She said.

"Okay!" I nodded.

"GRAAAH!"

The furious Mutated Yggdrasil Clone roared. Its sharp roots started sprouting out of the ground one after another, spinning like drills. With the strength they possessed, they could easily get through almost anything. If it truly wanted, this thing could easily drill through a mountain in less than a week and make it fall apart!

CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAASH!

With Pyuku and Aquarina by my side, we evaded the incoming attacks with all the dexterity we possessed, while we swung our weapons or fired our magic, blowing up the roots as they came. I

noticed my father leaping into action, summoning his blazing sword, but now imbued with Sunlight instead.

"[Sunlight Blade Arts]: [Shining Slash Rain]!"

With a single technique, hundreds of slashes resembling rays of sunlight emerged out of his sword attacks, cutting through dozens after dozens of vines and roots, opening the way for us! At the same time, my mother fired beams, stopping large claw-like branches from attempting to catch Pyuku.

"[Holy Light Beams]"

It was the most basic elemental spell, but enhanced with her incredible amount of magical power, they proved to be deadly projectiles that easily pierced through the monster's roots, blasting them out one after another. The Mutated Yggdrasil Clone was growing frustrated, but as much Mana as it possessed, it seemed to lack basic spells or magical projectile abilities.

Instead, it employed all the Mana it possessed on moving its own body and transform or shapeshift it. Whenever roots, branches, and vines didn't work, it simply replicated other plants in the temple, giant cannibal flower jaws appeared right after mother's attack, surging from the ground below.

Crack, crack...!

CRAAASH!

The floor exploded, forcing us to leap away before a bed of cannibal flowers was revealed right below us, chomping down the air, attempting to devour us whole! I desperately imbued the Void Element into Ruby, releasing a powerful technique to blow them all up. They were far away from the tree to risk it.

"[Divine Dragon Blade Arts]: [Mana-Eating Void Dragon's Jaws]!"

I released four relentless blows, each one releasing a shockwave of void and mana disrupting energy, fusing with my own Yggdragon Aura into the form of a monstrous dragon jaw. The dragon jaws gnawed through anything, making the flowers disappear in mere seconds.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

This was a new technique I had created by fusing Void and Mana-Disrupting Energy together into my Divine Dragon Blade Arts, I had used it before against Apollo, and it was coming in handy now as well.

"SHYAAAGH!"

The Mutated Yggdrasil Clone gave out a screech of agonizing pain, its entire body beginning to twist around painfully the moment all those roots containing the flowers disappeared without leaving trace, only for a strong lightning strike made of mana disrupting energy to reach its core.

ZAAAP!

Its roots, vines, and branches stopped attacking, as if paralyzed for a split of a second, only to begin attacking as if nothing once more. I see how it is.

"We're getting closer, get ready!"

I had somewhat figured out this thing worked.

Chapter 1078 Against The Mutated Yggdrasil Clone

The moment I destroyed the roots connected to the flowers it created, I sent waves of mana disrupting energy into its core. This seemed to have triggered something within the monster's depth internal body, the energy most likely gathered near its "jaws", therefore, it probably has some sort of internal organ.

Perhaps a crystalized mass of mana and spirit energy it uses as its own heart to pump energy everywhere else, explaining why it has such a fast reaction speed and attack power, this tree has a heart of its own! And a good way to make it stop moving, is to give it a seizure without killing it.

However, for one to last long enough, we need to get closer to the heart core it has!

"Let's go!"

We kept slashing and hacking our way through the attacks, while our parents attacked the giant tree monster together. There were attacks coming from every single direction all at once, so my parents, Aquarina's parents, Arafunn, Ninhursag, and all our friends were busy blocking the blows and cutting through them.

It wasn't as difficult as Apollo, who had that incredible barrier that couldn't take damage, and those deadly black flames, and their countless transformations, but it was sure a tough nut to crack!

Mist kept shooting her light arrows, constantly weakening the roots that were emerging from the ground. Zack and Luck attacked with physical blows themselves, slashing through any attacks with axe and claws, leaving behind trails of winds, lightning, and holy light.

Celeste, Celica, and Lara dedicated to restraining and weakening the tree. Celeste and Celica used their chains of abyss and phantasmal energy respective, alongside Celica's giant skeleton claws to weaken the foe's soul. All while her golems kept blocking blows directed at her.

Lara conjured a huge circle of rainbow spiritual light, sapping away the tree's spiritual energy and mana, the bonus stats it was gaining were being reduced rapidly. Celeste constantly pierced the tree's roots and bark with her spear, weakening it severely as well.

My father, Shade, Nepheline, and Ninhursag constantly battled the major roots, which were five gigantic and overly thick ones that had Physical Reinforcement Auras. My mother and Arafunn supported them from behind, using magic and support spells to enhance their strength, speed, and defenses.

Everyone was doing their best to keep this monster on check without killing it, it was our job to finish this thing off once and for all!

"RAAAAH!"

With a ferocious roar, Aquarina kicked through the dozens of spinning roots aimed at us, blue scales growing on her arms which she used both defensively and offensively, pushing through the wood.

"Sylphy, Pyuku! Go!"

She roared, opening her jaws to release a powerful dragon beam, charged with her Abyssal Powers and blasting through all the wood gathering around us, opening a path we ran through the moment she gave us the signal.

"Thank you, Aquarina!"

"Let's go!"

We ran through, leaping into the Mutated Yggdrasil's Clone open jaws, Pyuku suddenly covered my entire body, as if forming an armor with his own body, and then imbued his magical powers into my entire self!

FLUOSH!

"Sylphy, take all my magic power, if it helps!"

Magic Power was much different than Mana, Mana was the primordial energy of magic, while Magic Power itself was, quite literally, the power of one's magic, how strong it was. And Pyuku could somewhat transfer a greater part of this Magical power into someone he touched like this.

"Thank you, Pyuku!"

With all my might, I imbued Mana Disruption, Void Wielding Arts, and Draconic Energy into my sword, and then pierced through the jaws trying to bite through me, until I landed inside the giant tree.

"SHAAARRGH!"

Countless wooden spears instantly attempted to impale me from all places, but Pyuku's armor easily bounced them off as I made my way upwards, finding a shiny, green colored jewel encompassed by many roots.

"There!"

I pointed my sword towards the jewel, only to be stopped by many incredibly thick wooden roots growing around it, guarding it from any harm, while more and more spears attempted to pierce us!

"Not yet...!"

I spun in midair as quickly as I could, slashing through it all and then stopping midair, kicking the air using my Void Wielding Arts, which I learned allowed me to "kick" empty air itself without even using wind magic or forces, and then I swung my blade towards the jewel when it was revealed to me as I cut through the wood protecting it.

"[Mana Disrupting Void Slash]!"

SLAAAASH!

A single slash was all I needed, which didn't pierce through the physical core, but it reached its spiritual interior instead, piercing through physical matter and reaching the ethereal!

ZAAAP!

Countless gray colored lightning bolts exploded out after impact, the core didn't crack, the monster didn't die, but countless mana disrupting force started spreading all across its body. The creatures' movements stopped in a single second, I don't know how long this will last, but we had to make it worth it.

"NOW!"

As I called out, my mother nodded, waving her hand as she generated several threads of life and light from her scepter, connecting to the over three hundred slimes trapped inside of fruits outside, connecting her life force with them and allowing them to sustain themselves from her own power.

"It's done! Sylphy, kill that thing!"

"Alright!"

Without hesitating, and with Pyuku's aid, we destroyed the heart of the Yggdrasil clone and shattered it into pieces, making the entire creature lose its powers and die off slowly, groaning as it twisted its entire body...

"GRYEEEEHHH...!!!"

As it groaned, we escaped its large jaws, landing right in front of it before the whole tree were to fall off, collapsing through the walls behind it and almost making the ceiling fall over us...

CRAAASH!

As it fell, the fruits containing the many slimes were quickly retrieved by Shade's "Stealing Hand" Ability, which allowed him to instantly move things through space as he focused his hands into them. In mere seconds, he rescued them all and stored them inside his shadows.

"W-We did it..." I sighed in relief, sitting down.

Ding!

[You and your party have defeated [Mutated Yggdrasil Clone (Tier 9)] x1!]

Chapter 1079 Quest Complete

After all the damage it sustained and once I shattered its core, the giant tree monster breathed its last. When it died, it even collapsed on the ground as if it couldn't even hold itself standing without the Mana flowing across its body, generating a loud thud that broke through the dungeon walls behind and almost made the destabilized ceiling above fall over us.

BAAAM!

Ding!

[You and your party have defeated [Mutated Yggdrasil Clone (Tier 9)] x1!]

[You earned 30.000.000 EXP]

Oh, that was much more EXP than I imagined at first. 30 Million for a Tier 9 Monster... Wait, maybe it is below average? I haven't really beaten any monster in that Rank on my own to truly know how much EXP they can give fully.

After all, the EXP I earn when I slay a strong foe with everyone is only a part of it, because I can only get the full part if I defeat it alone, without any outside help. Familiars and Spirits don't count in this calculation though, for some reason.

But that wasn't everything either, aside from the big amounts of EXP and the rescued Slimes, the quest that popped up out of nowhere back then was completed.

Ding!

[You have Completed the [Special Quest]: [Defeat The Mutated Yggdrasil Clone Tree and Save the Slimes!]

[Not only you've defeated the evil and mysterious mutated tree, you and your family have successfully rescued the slimes before they were to die once their life support were to be disconnected from the tree, who were keeping their weakened states alive.]

[Now, what's left is to heal the slimes and wake them up! Oh, and while you're at it, try to figure out what was this tree all along. Perhaps another experiment of the Gods gone wrong.]

[Due to having completed the Quest before the time limit, you've received bonus rewards.]

[Completion Rewards: [30.000.000 EXP] [Mutated Yggdrasil Sap (S- Grade)] x3 [Cloned Yggdrasil's Spirit Scepter (S- Grade)] x1 [Alchemical Forgemaster Medallion Fragment 1/3 (A+ Grade)] x1]

The rewards were better than I thought, and I seem to have acquired yet another Rank Up item, or a piece of it! Most likely for my Subclass! I knew it would appear eventually. I just need to get three more and I'll be able to Rank it up.

However, aside from the nice 30 million EXP, I also got some sort of Sap potion? and also a Scepter made out of this monster's wood and soul essence, apparently. Which the system absorbs once monsters die.

Much like how I absorb EXP from Soul Fragments, the same happens with generated items in the Quest, when they're related to a boss monster. The leftover essence, mana, and soul all materializes into special items.

Of course, "Causality Points" are needed for this to work properly, and those can only be achieved by doing great feats or changing the fate of someone. So I can't easily get whatever I would wish for handled to me so easily.

Alchemical Forgemaster as a Subclass sounds pretty interesting, does it mix alchemy, with forging skills? I guess I'm constantly getting better at this, although mostly thanks to the System, my knowledge on Forging and Alchemy Magic is still in the basics.

The reason I can do so much is thanks to the Skills I gained, so I feel like I'm cheating a lot here... I do remember in the hero list someone called Ruby, who was the "Hero of Forging Hammer" I bet they're going to be the real deal.

And that's without even mentioning the Witch of the Blue Mountain, whose creations surpass mine even after all the bonuses I can add to them. Especially because she can make people stronger by wearing her equipment, let them acquire abilities and spells, and all without a system helping her do it.

Another thing, because her equipment is so perfectly made, I seem to be incapable of improving it, as I had previously tried braking down my earrings and then remade them, but once I realized its structure was so well shaped to the molecular level, I gave up.

The sword, Scarlet, has gotten this strong thanks to acquiring a System, she gained skills to absorb materials by herself, I haven't really upgraded her or anything, she was also a creation of the Witch.

Well, I better focus on what's going on right now. I quickly ran towards the direction where everyone gathered, Pyuku leaping out of my body and rushing to see his siblings within Shade's shadows.

"The slimes! Are they okay?!" He asked desperately.

"They're sleeping for now." Shade said. "Faylen, can you heal them?"

"There's nothing I cannot heal." My mother smiled proudly. "I've already healed their lack of nutrients and stamina. I'm now supplying them with Mana so they can restore their former mass. It'll take some time though, so let's take a break. Should we camp inside this cave? Now that the ceiling broke off, there's some light coming from above, so it doesn't look too bad."

"Sure, let's camp for now." My father agreed. "Guys, you fine with that?"

"Yeah, no problem." Nepheline nodded, while analyzing the giant tree. "This big tree though, what the hell was this thing?"

"I can sense a strong aura from it even after it died." Ninhursag said. "An Aura very similar to that big tree Sylphy turned into her Familiar."

"I've already analyzed it." My mother commented. "Apparently, this is an Yggdrasil Tree... Or well, more like a clone of it. A mutant monster born from a failed clone of the Yggdrasil Tree. I could assume the Gods were trying to create their own Yggdrasil by trying to clone the one from this world. I'm glad to know they failed miserably."

"It only ended turning into a vicious monster..." Sighed Pyuku. "W-Well, all's well and done, right? I'm glad they're safe! Thank you so much for helping me out with that!"

"Don't worry." My mother smiled gently. "Now, let's set up a camp for now. Let's rest and after a few hours, we should have dinner and sleep. We can resume our travels tomorrow. Even now there's a lot I want to investigate about these ruins."

Chapter 1080 Mutated Yggdrasil Sap

After the whole fight and rescuing the captured Slimes, Pyuku seemed incredibly happy, but at the same time, full of questions. He wanted them to wake up right away, but my mother said that it depended on how long it would take for their mass to fully restore. It might take from a few hours to more than three days. So we had to be patient and not force them to wake up.

"Just calm down and chill out for now, Pyuku. We can deal with them once they wake up. Relax, now that they're fine and resting. There shouldn't be anything to worry about!" Aquarina said, patting Pyuku over his long blue hair, which gave off a rainbow hue.

"O-Okay, I'll wait then. I just... It's getting harder to concentrate when they're in my mind all the time now." He sighed. "Maybe I should try sleeping for now, Aquarina. I'll go to your Soul Scape if you don't mind."

"Sure, come in." Aquarina smiled, as the slime swiftly turned into a tiny blob of blue color and leaped inside her soul, disappearing afterwards.

"Well, it's better if he sleeps than stay awake full of worry." I shrugged. "Maybe once he wakes up the slimes are finally awakened too."

"Yeah, let's leave him be." Aquarina agreed. "Now, what do we do with this guy over here?"

Aquarina pointed at the giant, monstrous tree corpse resting over the floor. It had been a slight pain to deal with this mutated tree creature, but it eventually went down easily once the heart was broken. Mother also came back after inspecting around without us, and brought up a few things she found, amidst the endless vegetation.

Apparently this was a small research center of the Gods, or something like that. There were no weird experiments on people, and they were simply trying to clone and create a functional Yggdrasil Tree for themselves. From the vestigial writings she found, which she's still investigating, it said they were trying to make their own tree which could be then harvested in their Heavenly Realm for materials.

Eventually, it all went down to shit once it continued failing and failing. Eventually they left the place without being able to replicate it properly. However, a few of these plants they made were left behind. My mother, after inspecting the mutated tree corpse, thought of something.

She told us that this monster wasn't a single organism, but the result of many different mutated cloned trees that took different forms, merged together. Or perhaps absorbed into a greater one. Once it died, most of the vines, flowers, and other creatures we meet died instantly, and once we peeked outside the ruins, most of the tall grass was falling down and turning brown... There was the normal small grass, but the overly tall one was just dying!

"Apparently this thing was responsible for the very annoying super tall grass. It is a pity it died off though, it was a nice and interesting place. Almost a wonder of nature." I sighed.

"Yeah, to think it was just produced by the gods' experiments, just like the Sunstone Plateau. Kind of is a bummer." Said Aquarina. "Then again... This whole continent was made by them, so it should make sense, I think..."

"I guess." I shrugged, sitting down over the tree's roots. "Hmm, I guess we have to see the positive side to this, materials. It is a pretty high quality one. It'll going to give us amazing wood, sap, fruits..."

whatever those things holding the slimes were, medicinal herbs, flowers, and even those vine tongue things. I can see they could all be amazing materials for all sorts of potions and elixirs. They're compatible with my Physique too."

"Ooh, I hadn't thought about it that way, but you're right. This whole thing's a treasure trove of materials! Will you store it?" Aquarina wondered, jumping over the tree and wandering over it.

"Later maybe." I said, as I quickly checked my quest rewards. "Hmm, I got a quest for defeating this thing and rescuing the slimes. Look what I got."

Aquarina ran to my side, checking the items I materialized out of my Inventory. Her eyes widened when she saw they included a long scepter made of almost the same wood as the thing we just defeated, and a few bottles with a golden liquid.

"Oh, a scepter! It has a lot of magic potential inside. But it doesn't give bonus stats like your other equipment... Seems to be really good for using Nature Magic though." Aquarina said, and then checking the bottle. "What's this thing? Oh, a sap?"

"Let me inspect it." I said, quickly giving it a glance.

[Mutated Yggdrasil Sap (S- Grade)] x3

A bottle full of the highest quality sap extracted from the mutated, cloned Yggdrasil Tree. It contains their life force, mana, and spirit energy concentrated in very large quantities, which can be toxic for almost anybody that doesn't have a strong Physique with an affinity for Nature Element. Consuming it might cause a variety of random effects, usually beneficial only if the consumer has affinity with it.

"Yikes, I'm not touching that." Aquarina quickly gave them back to me. "Drink them then, so you can get a bit stronger." She started playing with the scepter.

"I was planning to do that already- Wait, Aquarina, don't play with the scepter so carelessly!" I tried to stop her, but suddenly she imbued too much Mana into it.

FLAAASH!

The wooden scepter gave a bright glow from the green jewel imbued on top of it, the flash of green light hit the ground. Large vines as strong as the ones the Yggdrasil clone possessed surged from the ground, beginning to wrap themselves around her body.

"Uwaah! Sylphy?! This thing has a mind of its own!" She cried.

"It's just the basic magic imbued into the scepter I think." I laughed a bit, quickly freeing her from the vines. I touched them and used m Agriculture Arts to instantly control them, forcing them to free her.

"Ugh, I'm never touching that thing again!" Aquarina sighed in relief, as she started to laugh a bit right after. "Hahaha... It was a bit dumb of my part."

"Hahaha! Why did you even do that?" I continued laughing.

"Dunno, you looked a bit gloomy, so I wanted to cheer you up!" Aquarina acted silly just for me.

"Awww, you silly bean. Alright, let's go eat something now." I held her hand, regrouping with everyone else. The day was already coming to an end.

The scepter seemed interesting, but it didn't really do anything I couldn't do already. So I was considering two options with it. Either to remake it with the system powers for bonus stats, so I can have a special scepter to conjure magic alone.

Or... I can gift it to Selene, the Saintess of the Arboren to boost her overall capabilities and power. I could even use it as some sort of reward for her, so her loyalty to me grow stronger. That scepter could even be used as some sort of treasure for them, so they have something, a "gift" from me that they can treasure. Maybe this way their economy could rise by gathering treasures, or something.

I just thought Selene could really use it, so I'll gift it to her later.